GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:851
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2016
Drug Abuse
Kher Smt. Kirron

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of drug abuse in Chandigarh;

(b) the precautionary measures being taken to curb the problem along with the preventive education and awareness generation campaigns for the same;

(c) whether the Ministry is considering to formulate a National Policy on drug demand reduction; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)

(a): No authentic data is available in the Ministry in this regard.

(b): The Ministry conducts following awareness generation programmes against Drug abuse:

i) Sensitization and preventive education programmes in collaboration with National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) in schools and colleges on regular basis.

ii) Awareness and outreach programmes involving organizations like Nehru Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), National Services Scheme (NSS) etc. Due to high rate of prevalence of addiction in Punjab, the Ministry has assigned, in October 2014, and awareness generation programme in the State through NYKS. The Ministry organized two Regional Workshops during year 2015-16 in collaboration with NSS at Shillong and Indore to sensitize students. The Coordinators of NSS from all the North Eastern States, Odisha and West Bengal attended the Workshop at Shillong and NSS Coordinators from Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan attended the Workshop at Indore. The Programme was also attended by a large number of students.

iii) The Ministry also uses print, electronic and social media for creating awareness, information regarding ill-effects of alcoholism and drug abuse is also disseminated in regional languages through the All India Radio programme "Sanwarti Jayen Jeevan Ki Rahen" and also through advertisements in newspapers.

iv) The Ministry celebrates the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26th June every year by holding functions and organizing exhibitions to sensitize the people about the ill effects of drug abuse. National Awards are also conferred to individuals and institutions in order to recognized the efforts and encourage excellence in the field of prevention of substance abuse.

v) Ministry has set up a National Toll Free drug de-addiction helpline Number 1800-11-0031 w.e.f. 07.01.2015 to help the victims of Drug abuse, their family and society at large.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. The Ministry has prepared a draft of the National Policy for Drug Demand Reduction.